12/14/93

Jim called - Saw a story for Reuters in this am. paper - is sending it you - Wayne Chastain says is taking case before grand jury - based on Pepper's having located suspect who says he pd off Ray - Jim tried to call Pepper but secretary said he's on way to US - Jim tried to call you today but got no answer - Will be tied up all day tomorrow in class - Will try to call within next few days -
I think that's all & that he got it straight -

Without reference to Chastain or to Pepper or to any grand jury, the essence of this was on CBS radio news several days ago. That item was attributed to a story in a London newspaper, so with Pepper living and working in England, he may have been its source. Pepper has been Ray's lawyer for a while. He is hardly helping Ray by proclaiming him guilty, which I regard as impossible in any event and as Pepper would have ~~to~~ known if he were familiar with the fact available to him, as in the transcripts of the evidentiary hearings, and if he had done any real work at all. On its face this makes no sense at all. Why would anyone want to put himself in jail by this kind of confession? It makes no sense also because if Ray had had any money he would not have been captured. It he had had only about $100 more when he got to Portugal he'd have taken a ship to then Rhodesia, which had no extradiction treaty and whose government was even more anti-black than that of South Africa was then. Pepper has, I believem from the first been looking for personal attention and a book and/or movie from the King assassination. He appeared before HSCA with Flo Kennedy to represent Jerry Ray. He then was close to Mark Lane. He later told me he is no longer. What he never told me when he first approached me years ago and I learned from another is that he then had a book and/or a movie in mind. I do not recall that he ever mentioned either or a TV production later, although I think I did hear that he had TV in mind in more recent years. Chastain began hung up on the man he wrote about as the "sausage and eggs man". I tried to discourage him them, without success. When I got the FBI records reflecting that man was a college student who was visiting I think an aunt in the area and just wanted breakfast - whatever the records reflect he could not have been involved - and sent Wayne copies I never heard from him again. And that was about 1977. We had been good friends. ...The bug that bites all these people surely is durable!